

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend Claims 3 and 4 as follows and add Claims 7-13:

1. (Original) A porous body comprising, as a skeleton constituent thereof, sericin with an average molecular weight of 30000 to 400000, and having a recovery rate of 10 to 100% after 50% compression.

2. (Original) The porous body of claim 1 having an average pore diameter of 0.1 to 5000 μm .

3. (Currently amended) The porous body of claim 1 or 2 having a porosity of 70 to 99%.

4. (Currently amended) The porous body of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-3~~ further containing a functional substance in an immobilized state.

5. (Original) The porous body of claim 4 wherein the functional substance is a living body-derived substance.

6. (Original) A method for producing a porous body which comprises gelling an aqueous solution containing sericin with an average molecular weight of 30000 to 400000, thereafter freezing the resulting gels and then melting the frozen gels.

7. (New) The porous body of claim 2 having a porosity of 70 to 99%.

8. (New) The porous body of claim 7 further containing a functional substance in an immobilized state.

9. (New) The porous body of claim 2 further containing a functional substance in an immobilized state.

10. (New) The porous body of claim 3 further containing a functional substance in an immobilized state.

11. (New) The porous body of claim 10 wherein the functional substance is a living body-derived substance.

12. (New) The porous body of claim 9 wherein the functional substance is a living body-derived substance.

13. (New) The porous body of claim 8 wherein the functional substance is a living body-derived substance.